

## REMARKS

### *Amendments to Claims*

Claims 1 and 3 have been canceled. Claims 2 and 4 remain in this application. Claims 2 and 4 have been amended to overcome the claim objections of the Examiner and place them in position for allowance.

### *Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)*

The Examiner rejected Applicant's claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Pat. No. 3,784,219 issued to van der Burgt et al. ("van der Burgt '219"). The Examiner claimed that the teachings of van der Burgt '219 would have motivated one skilled in the art to combine Figures 1 and 2 of van der Burgt '219 to provide the rear frame in Figure 2 of van der Burgt '219 with the fifth wheel in Figure 1 of van der Burgt '219, in order to couple the trailer to the rear frame.

In response to the Examiner's rejection, Applicant has canceled claims 1 and 3 and rewritten claims 2 and 4 to include the limitations of claims 1 and 3. Applicant believes that this will overcome the Examiner's rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and place claims 2 and 4 in position for allowance.

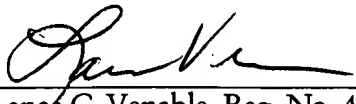
### *Conclusion*

Applicant respectfully requests that the above amendments be incorporated into the application. Additionally, Applicant believes he has addressed and responded to every point

raised in the Examiner's present action. For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of his application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/23/05

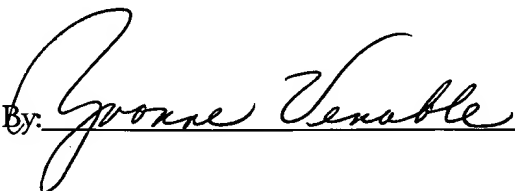
  
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